

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /100 W

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1922

SECDEF

INFO USNATO 1944

USCINCEUR

USCINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3880

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MCAP, PARM, NATO, NL

SUBJ: DEF MIN VREDELING'S US VISIT

1. WE REVIEWED DEF MIN VREDELING'S US VISIT WITH MFA'S ACTION DIRECTOR OF NATO/WEU AFFAIRS (DE VOS VAN STEENWIJK WHO ACCOMPANIED VREDELING.
2. DE VOS DESCRIBED VISIT AS VERY USEFUL FOR VREDELING, WHO HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH BRIEFINGS ON NATO AND WP FORCE CAPABILITIES. DUTCH UNDERSTAND US INTENDS TO SUBMIT ITS DATA AND ANALYSIS ON RELATIVE FORCE CAPABILITIES TO NATO. DE VOS SAID THE SOONER THIS IS DONE THE BETTER, SINCE THERE MUST BE AGREED ALLIED DATA BASE WHICH ALLIED GOVTS CAN WORK FROM IN DEFENDING THEIR DEFENSE BUDGETS AND POLICIES AND IN APPROACHING MBFR. DUTCH FULLY AGREE WITH US EFFORT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT NATO IS NOT IN HOPELESS STATE VIS-A-VIS WP'S CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITIES, AND ARE AWAITING RECEIPT DETAILED INFORMATION IN THIS REGARD WHICH SEC. SCHLESINGER HAD PROMISED TO SUPPLY VREDLING.
3. RE BURDEN SHARING, DE VOS NOTED VREDELING HAD REITERATED

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THAT DUTCH ARE SYMPATHETIC TOWARD US PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA.

DE VOS SAID IT WOULD NOT BE EASY FOR GON TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO ASSIST US BUT HE COULDN'T FORECAST WHAT MIGHT BE DONE; THIS DEPENDED UPON OUTCOME OF CURRENT NATO BURDEN SHARING STUDY.

4. VREDELING HAD BEEN PLEASED TO RECEIVE FROM SEC. SCHLESINGER CONFIRMATION OF US INTEREST IN NATO'S STUDY OF MILITARY SPECIALIZATION, WHICH DUTCH VIEW AS EFFORT NOT TO SAVE MONEY BUT TO DERIVE BETTER RESULTS FROM CURRENT DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN VIEW OF RISING COST OF EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT.

5. DE VOS MADE ONLY BRIEF REFERENCES TO DISCUSSION OF SALT, MBFR AND US-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR. RE LATTER, HE SAID DUTCH REACTION TO AGREEMENT HAD BEEN VERY POSITIVE; THEY HAD NOT SHARED CRITICAL FRENCH VIEW.

6. DE VOS SAID NO BUSINESS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED DURING VREDELING'S SHORT VISIT WITH SACLANT.
TANGUY

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